The Social Planning Council

of

Winnipeg

ANNUAL REPORT

2014/1015

President's Message

The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg has completed a year with many organizational and program changes. This report outlines some of what we have done and what we continue to contribute to the social wellbeing of Winnipeggers. We continue to work with our partners and we appreciate the support we get from United Way Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Foundation and this year from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

What this report does not reflect is the quiet consistent efforts we make to foster healthy compassionate relationships. Beneath all our programming and advocacy is the recognition that it is respectful relationships that lead to genuine social development. It is the understanding created by relationships of why some people live in poverty or homelessness. It is the trust and confidence that comes through relationships that empowers us to act on these social issues, not just talk about them or lament their persistence.

Today our community is faced with a growing recognition of how Indigenous people are reclaiming their heritage and cultures. There seems to be a consensus that colonialism, racism and cultural genocide have denied Indigenous citizens of their rights, identity and decent quality of life. There is less consensus of what needs to be done to change conditions so that poverty and exclusion do not dominate the lives of so many Indigenous people. We are confident however, that the voices of Indigenous people are providing direction and inspiration to make the needed changes.

We see the SPCW as an animator of the practical relationships needed to create a meaningful change. We know that there is good will in our community and a commitment to helping each other. Our commitment is to help create social change that empowers people as well as meet their physical needs. Our commitment is to collaborations that result in long term structural change, not just immediate cosmetic change.

With new staff and Board members we look forward to the next year of keeping Winnipeg caring, just and equitable.

Leah Gazan,
Board President

Executive Director's Message

This year we maintained programming that has focused on the housing and income needs of Winnipeggers. In particular, SPCW played a collaborative role in addressing some of the underlying operational needs for those who work with people living in homelessness. SPCW staff supported our community and government partners in promoting reforms to Employment and Income Assistance that could have a major benefit for residents living in poverty. These contributions will continue.

The annual Board program review also opened SPCW resources to working with partners in addressing community safety and security needs. People living in poverty are particularly vulnerable and are subject to different forms of violence. The deplorable number of murdered and missing women is only one dramatic element of a social situation that disproportionately affects some of our citizens. SPCW has and will be working closely with community groups, social agencies and the Winnipeg Police Service in creating policy and program change to not just protect people, but address the causes of insecurity.

The major new initiative we launched this year will respond to the increasing presence and contribution of immigrants and refugees to Winnipeg. Setting up Immigration Partnership Winnipeg will bring together government, community and agency stakeholders in a process and structure that seriously enables them to stimulate expanded responsiveness to the needs of newcomers. This partnership has been carefully crafted through collaboration with the Manitoba Immigrant and Refugee Settlement Sector Association (MIRSSA). We are confident that the IPW Council will be a genuine community effort with the capacity and commitment to guide a city wide mobilization of resources.

At an administrative level, SPCW ends the year with a capable professional staff, a full and engaged Board of Directors, financial stability and a Canada Revenue Agency audit clean bill of health. The organization is therefore well positioned to continue supporting persistent advocacy, innovative social justice action and practical solutions to meeting the needs of those living in poverty.

Dennis Lewycky,
Past Executive Director

PROGRAM DIRECTION AT A GLANCE:

In 2011, the Board of Directors revised the organization's Vision and Mission statements and set out a new set of Strategic Priorities. Each year since, the Board and staff have reviewed and updated programming to remain pertinent to the social development needs of Winnipeggers.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

To achieve our vision and mission, in particular to increase social equality, the SPCW is guided by these strategic goals:

1. **Increase incomes and fairly distribute the wealth of society.**
2. **Increase the availability and improve access to safe, healthy housing.**
3. **Empower communities to represent and act to improve their quality of life.**
4. **Improve access to public resources (policies, programs etc.) for those in need.**

STRATEGIC MEANS

To achieve our vision and mission, the SPCW is guided by the following strategic means or methods:

5. **Provide leadership in addressing social issues, through research leading to action.**
6. **Create understanding of social issues through education, information and communication.**
7. **Facilitate and mobilize public engagement in addressing social issues.**
8. **Build on the knowledge, capacity and strengths of citizens in addressing their issues.**

One of the primary objectives of the SPCW's programing is to raise incomes and to more fairly distribute society's wealth. Therefore we continue to collaborate with organizations seeking to raise both social assistance and wages. We also monitor and find new ways to help the provincial government enhance and implement its ALL Aboard Poverty Reduction Strategy with the community.

There continues to be a serious shortage of affordable housing in Winnipeg. Therefore we continue to raise awareness of the experiences of those who are homeless or living in what should be considered unacceptable conditions. We know that a safe and healthy home is the basis for individual and family life, and that this is not currently available for a large segment of society.

At a service level, we work with community advocates and front line workers to address weaknesses in the Employment and Income Assistance program and Winnipeg Transit system. More recently, we have assisted neighbourhood associations in understanding City planning procedures.

Here is what we worked on in the last year and in some cases where work continues:

1. **Increase incomes and fairly distribute the wealth**

a. Our experienced staff support the EIA Advocates Network work with the government to improve welfare supports for those most in need. We follow up on the EIA Rate Review that the Ombudsman recommended in 2010.
b. With a collection of organizations dealing with income issues, we are planning and coordinating a future campaign to promote a 'living wage' for Manitobans. A living wage would both provide more money for families who most need it, and contribute to the

commercial life of the community.

c. We have also worked to support the recent creation of the Basic Income Manitoba committee which we see as complimentary to the living wage campaign.

2. **Improve access to safe, healthy housing**

a. We provide advice, assistance and support to a number of organizations addressing housing needs of Winnipeggers: Right to Housing, Community Advisory Board of the Homelessness Partnership Strategy and the Winnipeg Rental Network.
b. Coming out of a study we completed last year, we are working with a number of service agencies to alter the way government systems respond to Winnipeg's most marginalized youth. The research and following summit resulted in clear documentation of systemic gaps and coordination of program and policy efforts of community agencies.

3. **Empower communities to improve their quality of life.**

a. A central part of our contribution to Winnipeg is helping community and neighbourhood organizations make sense of City procedures, and engage effectively to make Winnipeg a safe and healthy community. The Winnipeg Neighbourhoods Coalition has been launched to represent and support resident and neighbourhood associations.
b. A large initiative that we help facilitate will expand the ability of Winnipeg community groups, faith organizations, and business representatives to integrate recent immigrants into the life of the city. The Local Immigration Partnership Winnipeg will run for two years and is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Services.

4. **Improve access to public resources for those in need.**

a. A network of citizens, labour groups and community agencies meets monthly at SPCW to discuss and collaborate on action related to City of Winnipeg issues. We assist them in their activities and facilitate collaborations. This network organized a Mayoral Forum for the civic election to hear how candidates would foster equity and integrity as Winnipeg's Mayor.
b. We are working with education partners on an equity in education research project to highlight what school divisions are currently doing and can do to address the impact of inequity on education and ensure social inclusion of low income students in school life.
c. We are working with recreation partners to improve access to recreation opportunities and facilities plus, remove barriers to participation in quality recreation programs.

Specific Processes and Products

Documents

- Child and Family Poverty Report Card 2014
- EIA Reform Options *System Pathways into Youth Homelessness – Stakeholder Summit* on Child and Family Services and Youth Homelessness.
- Taking Back the City: Alternative Municipal Budget Community Engagement Report
- Poverty Reduction Strategy for Winnipeg: Civic Election 2014
- City Election 2014 – Inspiring Leadership: Guide to Equity and Integrity

- Plan to End Youth Homelessness in Winnipeg Backgrounder
- Winnipeg 201 Report
- Winnipeg Resident Associations Profiles
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan 2014-19
- Rent Assist for non-EIA recipients: changes in Manitoba Budget 2015

Public Events

• HPS Community Plan Forum	May
• Summit on Child and Family Services and Youth Homelessness	May
• Winnipeg 201 Workshop	May
• SPCW Annual General Meeting	June
• Alternative Budget Community Meetings	May-June
• Winnipeg's Next Mayor and Urban Indigenous Peoples	September
• Mayoral Forum 2014 – Inspiring Leadership	September
• Building a Happier Winnipeg Together	February
• Making Priorities to Make Poverty History	March

Projects

- Campaign 2000 to End Child Poverty (funded by small individual donations)
- Equity in Education Study
- Planners' Toolkit (funded by the Winnipeg Foundation)
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan 2014-19 (partnership with the Institute of Urban Studies)
- Doorways Community Collaboration (partnership with eight agencies hosted by Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre)

Collaborations

- Community Data Consortium
- Make Poverty History - Manitoba
- Right to Housing Coalition
- City Watch Network
- Winnipeg Transit Riders' Association
- Winnipeg Rental Network
- EIA Advocates Network
- Social Justice Coalition of Educators
- CCED Network - Manitoba
- LiveSAFE Integration Advisory Network
- Winnipeg Neighbourhoods Coalition
- Manitoba Immigrant and Refugee Settlement Sector Agencies (MIRSSA)
- Alternative Municipal Budget
- Living Wage Steering Committee
- Plan to End Youth Homelessness in Winnipeg
- Basic Income Manitoba

SYSTEM PATHWAY INTO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS AND A PLAN TO END IT:

As youth homelessness has been a priority of the SPCW for many years, it has been the focus of much of my work in 14/15. Child and family poverty, a critical shortage of affordable housing, colonialism and social exclusion mean too many young Winnipeggers struggle just to find a safe place to sleep each night.

In 2011, a research project through Main Street Project, the Winnipeg Street Health Report, found that 43% of all adults experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg were in the care of Child and Family Services (CFS). In 2012, a Summit on Youth Homelessness brought together key stakeholders to develop recommendations for the CFS system to address youth homelessness.

Through 2013-14, research conducted by the Social Planning Council, the University of Winnipeg, and Resource Assistance for Youth found, though there have been significant changes in the way youth age out of the care of CFS, they are continuing to become homeless immediately or soon after leaving care.

We released the System Pathways into Youth Homelessness research report on May 15, 2014 with a half-day summit that gathered front line workers, senior managers and policy analysts in youth care and child welfare. The summit showed there is remarkable community agreement in Winnipeg on what is needed to stop the flow of young people from the care of CFS into homelessness. Some legislative changes are required as soon as possible. New programs, policies, procedures and systems will follow from these. Still, there is no formal body or community coalition working to move these recommendations forward in a coordinated way.

The SPCW continued to work with community-based youth-serving agencies since the summit to get the resources needed to address this coordination gap. Over the next year, we will be collaborating to develop a long term plan to end youth homelessness in Winnipeg, focused on coordinating information, resources, advocacy and programming based on solid evidence and promising practices. A Plan to End Youth

Homelessness will be an effective resource for organizations collaborating and therefore addressing the complex social and economic challenge of youth homelessness.

I'd like to thank Mark Courtney for his work on this both as a student and then on contract with us.

Christina Maes-Nino,
Community Animator

RENT ASSIST SUCCESS:

Make Poverty History Manitoba Rally at Legislature

Since starting with the SPCW in January of this year, my work, providing organization and capacity, has supported our community partners who work on poverty, income and community safety issues in Winnipeg. Some of the groups I have been working with include: Make Poverty History Manitoba, Basic Income Manitoba, and Right to Housing. Also in 2015, we have begun consultations for building a community safety network that will bring together organizations and individuals interested in policing and community safety policies in Winnipeg.

Among the highlights of recent activity has been a widespread community mobilization around the need to raise Employment and Income Assistance rates in Manitoba, particularly to better reflect social housing costs. The SPCW has provided research, logistical and policy support to the Make Poverty History Manitoba (MPHM) coalition including holding a day long workshop to help develop priorities on March 11, 2015. As a result of the work of the coalition, the Manitoba government announced an historic increase in EIA Rent Assist rates in Budget 2015. I developed a short primer on what the changes will mean to share with frontline workers and anyone else interested, Rent Assist for non-EIA recipients: Changes to Manitoba Budget 2015.

Another major theme of the community animator work we have done is to help networks develop greater organizational and structural capacity. We have helped groups like MPHM and Basic Income Manitoba develop decision making structures that will enable them to function more smoothly and effectively. We have also worked with networks like the EIA Advocates Network to develop goals and strategies for achieving their objectives. We have provided research support to Right to Housing which is preparing to release an important brief on federal housing policy this summer.

We have been fortunate to work with several students in 2014-15 including Holly Goossen and Dayna Schulz who prepared research on health benefits for people on EIA (EIA Benefits and You) and Marnie McQuade and Marina Sominsky (Cost of food in Winnipeg) who conducted an analysis of food costs for low income people in Winnipeg. Both these research projects will be helpful in informing the work done by community networks in the year ahead.

Josh Brandon,
Community Animator

New Beginnings:

Immigration Partnership Winnipeg

In September 2013, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) introduced the idea of hosting a Local Immigration Partnership in Winnipeg to agencies providing settlement services and language training to newcomer immigrant and refugees. Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) are multi-sectoral collectives that bring a new form of collaboration. They are designed to establish, facilitate and implement a community-wide strategy for improving the settlement and integration of newcomers.

The settlement service providing agencies operating under the auspices of the Manitoba Immigrant and Refugee Settlement Sector Association (MIRSSA), met to consider making a proposal to CIC to host a LIP in Winnipeg. There was

consensus amongst the MIRSSA members that the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg should host the LIP in the initial years of establishment with MIRSSA acting as a partner.
In April 2014, SPCW received funding for the Immigration Partnership for an initial two-year period with the following initial goals:

1. Establish an inclusive **partnership council** that is broad-based and representative of the community, and to create terms of reference.
2. Conduct **research** on newcomers needs and the community's assets and gaps, and raise awareness of these needs with the partnership's members and the wider community.
3. Establish a local settlement **strategy** identifying key priorities for the community.
4. Develop an **action plan** with specific, measurable and time-bound activities to implement the community's strategic priorities.
5. Support the **initial implementation** of action plan and report on results achieved

In the first year, the project has a focused on the first two goals in establishing the local immigration partnership in Winnipeg.

1. The project has established a broad-based steering committee with representation from diverse sectors. The steering committee chose 'Immigration Partnership Winnipeg' as the name of the LIP in Winnipeg. The steering committee's main tasks were to:

    a. Develop terms of reference for the Local Immigration Partnership Council.
    b. Help with the recruitment of the council members.
    c. Start initial work on the local settlement strategy for newcomers.

2. The project embarked on a multipronged research in a number of areas. The project has five important research components:

    a. An environmental Scan of the existing services and supports for newcomers in the city
    b. A Literature Review of work that has been done in the city and the province.
    c. A Policy Review of key government departments, arm's length institutions and some key funders in Winnipeg on immigration and refugee settlement in Winnipeg.
    d. Labour Market outcomes analysis of newcomers receiving services from some key employment service providing agencies in the city.
    e. A study into the relationship between newcomers and indigenous communities in Winnipeg.

3. The project has also conducted eight community consultations with diverse stakeholders and partners. A report of the community consultations.

These reports are available on the IPW page on the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg website at the following link: http://www.spcw.mb.ca/action/local-immigration-partnership/

In the second year, the project will complete the three remaining goals in establishing the partnership.

Abdikheir Ahmed,
IPW Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

2014-2015

Leah Gazan - President
Talatu Shakpeka - Treasurer
Sandra Gessler – Past President
Harold Dyck
Shahzad Mussadiq
Jill Bucklaschuck
Marta Tibebe Terffa
Charles Thrift
Glenn Michalchuk – Vice-President
John Harvard - Vice-President
Tyler Blashko
Ryan Bruyere
John Silver
Karl Gowenlock
Wade Parke

Glenn Cochrane ended his second six year term with the Board.

Cindy Gilroy-Price left the Board as she was elected to City Council in October.

Bilan Arte left the Board as she took a position in Toronto with the Canadian Federation of Students.

The 15 members of the Board of Directors met five times over the last year to guide the operations and governance of the organization. The consistently strong participation in meetings and Board activities has led to significant achievements:

- Four Board members were re-elected at the AGM in June 2014.
- The Strategic Directions for the organization were reviewed and updated in January 2015.
- A new three year funding partnership with the United Way began in April of 2014.
- A Canada Revenue Agency audit was completed in March and SPCW was given a verbal clean reference on matters relating to our charitable status and conducting political activities.

STAFFING AND ADMINISTRATION:

The small staff of the SPCW is working behind the scenes to implement activities and maintain the important administration of the organization. Over the past year:

- Dennis Lewycky ended his four year contract as Executive Director of SPCW.
- Kate Kehler started as Executive Director in February. Her previous position was with the John Howard Society of Manitoba, and she brings a background in social justice advocacy, work to reform our current justice system, theatre and work in northern Canada.
- Christina Maes Nino, Community Animator, continued to work on the areas of affordable housing, homelessness, services and supports for youth, poverty reduction, neighbourhood development and city planning.
- Marianne Cerilli, left SPCW to teach at Red River College.
- Josh Brandon, Community Animator joined SPCW in January. He will be working on the areas of income assistance, poverty reduction, community safety and security through social development.
- Cindy Hoover, Office Manager, is continuing to provide accounting and IT support.
- Pam Sholdice, Resource Coordinator, continued to be part of the team providing logistical support.
- Abdi Ahmed joined SPCW as the Immigration Partnership Winnipeg Coordinator in June.
- Ten students from the University of Manitoba, Booth College, Red River College and Robertson College were placed and supported in their field of expertise - Nursing, Social Work, Administration and Community Development.

  They include:

  Mark Courtney (who also worked on a contract with the SPCW following his placement)
  Autumn Merrill
  Debra Fehr
  Jewel Pierre-Roscelli
  Holly Goossen
  Dayna Schulz
  Marnie McQuade
  Marina Somisky
  Olena Ptukha (who received an Emerging Leader's Fellowship from the Winnipeg Foundation to continue her work with us over the summer of 2015)

- We continue to have great support by volunteers, such as Ololade Adeyemi, Jill Derberg and Sacha Debreuil, committed to social justice in Winnipeg. Volunteers have contributed hours of their time attending meetings, providing analysis, researching, organizing the office, and providing administrative assistance.

In 2014/1015, along with United Way Winnipeg, our primary funder, we also received funding from the Winnipeg Foundation, Canada Immigrations Services and through memberships and a successful fundraiser generous Winnipeggers.

Fundraiser at Charisma, January 2015

Funded by: Financé par :

Citizenship and Immigration Canada / Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

THE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION
For Good. Forever.

United Way
Member Agency

Thank you All

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Summarized Financial Statements of

SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF WINNIPEG

March 31, 2015

Deloitte.

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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2015, and the summary statement of operations and changes in fund balances are derived from the audited financial statements of Social Planning Council of Winnipeg for the year ended March 31, 2015. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated June 25, 2015.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Social Planning Council of Winnipeg.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

Opinion
In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Social Planning Council of Winnipeg for the year ended March 31, 2015 are a fair summary of those financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Deloitte LLP

Chartered Accountants

Winnipeg, Manitoba
June 25, 2015

SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF WINNIPEG
Summarized Financial Statements
Year ended March 31, 2015

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	$ 137,574	$ 189,305
Accounts receivable	81,482	16,012
Prepaid expenses	2,517	1,717
	221,573	207,034
FIXED ASSETS	4,676	-
	$ 226,249	$ 207,034
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 42,976	$ 24,047
Deferred Special Projects revenue	43,055	90,777
Current portion of deferred rent incentive	-	3,970
	86,031	118,794
FUND BALANCES		
REVENUE STABILIZATION	60,000	60,000
TECHNOLOGY REPLACEMENT	5,000	5,000
UNRESTRICTED	75,218	23,240
	140,218	88,240
	$ 226,249	$ 207,034

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

	2015	2014
REVENUE		
Special projects	$ 442,801	$ 151,927
United Way of Winnipeg	321,020	316,608
Affiliation fees	1,139	567
Special funding - secondment	-	27,007
Earned fee for service	56,253	9,170
Other	43,349	50,279
	864,562	555,558
EXPENSES		
Special projects	374,895	118,505
Salaries, wages and benefits	238,949	264,356
Office and maintenance	94,101	90,546
Contribution to the Boys & Girls Club of Winnipeg	70,000	-
Administration	37,440	44,257
Amortization of fixed assets	1,169	-
Amortization of free rent	(3,970)	(3,970)
	812,584	513,694
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	51,978	41,864
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	88,240	46,376
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	$ 140,218	$ 88,240

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

..... President

..... Treasurer

A complete set of financial statements and Independent Auditor's Report may be obtained from the Planning Council.